Wage board for journalists

2256. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted wage board for revision of pay of journalists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the wage board for journalists has submitted its report/ recommendations to Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when it is likely to be submitted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted two Wage Boards, one for Working Journalists and the other for Non-Journalist Newspaper Employees under Section 9 and 13C respectively, of the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 *vide* notifications dated 24.05.2007. The Wage Boards consists of:

(i) Three persons representing employers in relation to newspaper establishment common to the two wage boards;

(ii) Three persons representing working journalists for Wage Board under Section 9 and three persons representing non-journalist newspaper employees for Wage Board under Section 13C of the Act; and

(iii) Four independent persons common to the two wage boards, one of whom has been appointed as Chairman.

(c) and (d) The Wage Boards have been given three years to submit their reports *i.e.* by 23rd May, 2010 *vide* notifications dated 3rd July, 2007. In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 12 and 13D, the Central Government accepts the recommendations and notifies the same in the Gazette of India for implementation. Prime responsibility for implementation of Wage Boards' Awards lies with State Governments, who are the appropriate Governments for the implementation of the Wage Boards' Awards. However, the Central Government has also constituted a Central Level Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Labour and Employment Adviser to monitor the implementations of the Wage Boards' Awards in the States/Union Territories.

Amending labour laws

2257. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to amend labour laws to allow more working hours, permit retrenchment and also allow industries to recruit more contract labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the relationship between labour and management is deteriorating day-by-day and the key labour issues and welfare measures are being continuously ignored by the management; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. It is not a fact that labour and management relationship are deteriorating day-by-day and key labour issues and welfare measures are ignored, though there have been a few incidents of violence in the recent past in the State sphere.

Rehabilitation of beedi workers

2258. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the beedi workers were unemployed due to the statutory restrictions and all are above 50 and ill health;

(b) if so, whether Government has any proposal to rehabilitate the beedi workers;

(c) whether there is any plan to introduce pension fund scheme for the benefit of the beedi workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) any idea to provide funds to the State Governments for ongoing rehabilitation scheme for the beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Information regarding unemployed due to the statutory restrictions and all are above 50 and ill health is not maintained. However, action has been initiated for rehabilitation of the beedi workers by providing them vocational training according to local needs for viable alternative sources of livelihood.

(c) to (e) There are already a number of welfare schemes, like housing, scholarships for children and for health care. Provision for funds has been made. However, there is no plan to introduce a pension fund scheme for the benefit of such workers.

Modernization of Employment Exchanges

2259. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's plan for modernization of Employment Exchanges;

(b) what is Public Private Participation (PPP) in delivering of employment services; and